THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The Drug Price Control Order, 1987 is being administered by the Department of Chemicals who are the implementing authority.

Use of Hydrocortisone eye drops

4124. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hydrocortisone eye drops cause irritation to the eyes and is therefore sparsely used;

(b) whether it is a fact that among the corticosteroids, Betamethasone and Dexamethasone eye drops are preferred;

(c) the total annual sales of Betamethasone and Dexamethasone eye preparations; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Betamethasone and Dexamathasone eye drops are extensively used in AIIMS, and Hydrocortisone eye drops are rarely used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Information is not monitored by the National Programme for Control of Blindness.

(d) The choice of the drug for treatment of a disease depends upon its nature, stage severity and judgement of the attending physician.

Carelessness on the part of Ministry's Representative recommending drugs for Category-II

4125. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the criterion of Kelkar Committee was that drugs having sales turn over of Rs. 50 lakhs or more are included in category-II;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the negligence of his representatives more than 50 drugs are included in category-II in violation of the above criteria and over 100 drugs have been exclude;

(c) whether it is also a fact that public is suffering as a result of the above omission and commissions; and

(d) whether Government propose to make an inquiry into the matter;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) The Kelkar Committee was initially set up by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals for identification of Drugs under Category II of the Drug Prices Control Order, 1987, as per norms set by them. Discepancies noticed in categorisation of drugs under category II have already been brought to the notice of the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals.

Drugs for Trachoma Control Programme

4126. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total sales turn-over of Hydrocortisone drops during 1988 was Rs. 1.55 lakhs and that of Tetracycline Opthaimic Rs. 1 lakh, Aureomycin Rs. 0.39 lakhs and of Terramycin Rs. 132.57 lakhs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that inclusion of Hydrocortisone and Tetracycline for Tracoma Control Programme is an eye-wash to deceive the public;

(c) what are the reasons for ignoring the effective and widely used drugs; and

(d) what steps have been taken to enquire into the matter and fix the responsibility in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Information is not monitored by the National Programme for Control of Blindness.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) While including drugs for Trachoma Control, consideration has been to select commonly used effective drugs.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase of Medicines by Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital

4127. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that items for Surgery, ENT and Dental Departments were purchased recently on priority basis at Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Delhi worth more than Rs. 80 lacs on very high price and from certain companies;

(b) whether the audit department has raised certain objections in the installation of public address system;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of complaints from some Members of Parliament and others have been received against the Medical Superintendent for emezzlement of lacs of Government funds;

(d) whether a vigilance enquiry has been initiated in this regard if so, what are the finding thereof and what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the involved officials are suppressing the inquiry; if so, whether Government propose to hold the enquiry by Central Vigilance or Central Bureau of Investigations and to shift the Medical Superintendent to ensure impartial enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) During the year 1987-88, various items costing Rs. 73.29 lakhs were purchased on proprietory basis by Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Delhi from 15 different companies for use in the ENT, Dental, Orthopaedic, Opthalmology and Anaesthesia Departments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Delhi Administration have recceived a few complaints against the Medical Superintendent, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital. These have been referred to the Vigilance Department, Delhi Administration, for investigation. The report is awaited.

Eye ointments based on Betamethasone and Dexamethasone

4128. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1031 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eye drops and eye ointments based on Betamethasone and Dexamethasone with without Neomycin are used more extensively than the eye ointment/eye drops of Hydrocortisone on account of the irritating properties of the later; and

(b) what are the purchases of eye ointments/drops of the above products for the National Health Programme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No Sir.

(b) No drugs are purchased under National Programme for Control of Blindness by Government of India.

Non-inclusion of some opthalmic drugs

4129. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Hydrocortisone ingredient drops/ointment for opthalmic use in India and what in the total sales of such preparations;

(b) whether it is a fact that total sales of Tetracycline group in opthalmic form was only Rs. 140 lakhs during 1986 and that of soframysin plain and it combination was Rs. 340 lakhs, that of Chloromphenicol it was Rs. 400 lakhs. Neosporin and Combinations it was Rs. 161 lakhs and